

REFERENCE TITLE: dental hygienists; practice

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-seventh Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2006

## **HB 2214**

Introduced by  
Representative Quelland

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 32-1281, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO DENTAL HYGIENISTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2       Section 1. Section 32-1281, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4           32-1281. Practicing as dental hygienist; supervision  
5           requirements; definitions

6       A. A person is deemed to be practicing as a dental hygienist if the  
7 person does any of the acts or performs any of the operations included in the  
8 general practice of dental hygienists, dental hygiene and all related and  
9 associated duties.

10      B. Only a licensed dental hygienist or dentist may perform the  
11 following:

12       1. Prophylaxis.

13       2. Scaling.

14       3. Closed subgingival curettage.

15       4. Root planing.

16       5. Administering local anesthetics and nitrous oxide.

17       6. Placing of periodontal sutures as prescribed in subsection F of  
18 this section.

19       7. Examining the oral cavity and surrounding structures.

20       8. Periodontal examination.

21       9. Recording of clinical findings.

22       10. Compiling case histories.

23       C. A licensed dental hygienist may:

24       1. Expose and process dental radiographs.

25       2. Perform all functions authorized and deemed appropriate for dental  
26 assistants.

27       D. The board by rule shall prescribe the circumstances under which a  
28 licensed dental hygienist may:

29       1. Apply preventive and therapeutic agents, used in relation to dental  
30 hygiene procedures, to the hard and soft tissues.

31       2. Use emerging scientific technology and prescribe the necessary  
32 training, experience and supervision to operate newly developed scientific  
33 technology.

34       3. Perform other procedures not specifically authorized by this  
35 section.

36       E. Except as provided in subsections F, ~~and~~ H AND I of this section, a  
37 dental hygienist shall practice under the general supervision of a dentist  
38 licensed pursuant to this chapter.

39       F. Dental hygienists shall practice under the direct supervision of a  
40 dentist licensed pursuant to this chapter when performing the following  
41 procedures and after completing a course of study recognized by the board:

42       1. Administering local anesthetics.

43       2. Administering nitrous oxide analgesia.

1       3. Placing an interrupted suture interdentally to secure soft tissue  
2 papillae that may have inadvertently become displaced during root planing or  
3 closed curettage procedures performed by the dental hygienist, except that a  
4 dental hygienist may not position and suture soft tissue flaps that are  
5 reflected for surgical access and treatment. This procedure applies only to  
6 a dental hygienist who is permitted to perform periodontal suturing on or  
7 before July 31, 2004.

8       G. A dental hygienist may perform dental hygiene procedures in the  
9 following settings:

10      1. On a patient of record of a dentist within that dentist's office.  
11      2. Except as prescribed in section 32-1289, in a health care facility,  
12 nursing home, public health agency or institution or public, private or  
13 charter school on patients who have been examined by a dentist within the  
14 previous year.

15      3. In a homebound setting on patients who have been examined by a  
16 dentist within the previous year.

17       H. A dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services under an  
18 affiliated practice relationship with a dentist as prescribed in section  
19 32-1289.

20       I. A DENTAL HYGIENIST MAY PRESCRIBE AND APPLY ALL FORMS OF TOPICAL  
21 FLUORIDE WITHOUT DIRECT OR GENERAL SUPERVISION.

22       ~~I.~~ J. For the purposes of this article:

23      1. "Direct supervision" means that the dentist is present in the  
24 office while the dental hygienist is treating a patient and is available for  
25 consultation regarding procedures that the dentist authorizes and for which  
26 he is responsible.

27      2. "General supervision" means that the dentist is available for  
28 consultation, whether or not the dentist is in his office, over procedures  
29 which the dentist has authorized and for which the dentist remains  
30 responsible.